



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 14-054: WDFW PARKE CREEK FENCE

Description of Proposal:

The proposed fence will serve largely as a cattle grazing control feature in accordance with grazing agreements between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and various partner agencies and groups. Additionally, this fence will serve as a property boundary marker, and a means to control trespass livestock. The fence is necessary to comply with various agreements already in place with various stakeholders and neighboring landowners.

The Parke Creek fence includes installation of approximately two miles of typical boundary fence on the WDFW property boundary along the north and west side of the Quilomene Wildlife Area. This fence will include one (1) pre-fabricated all-steel cattle guard with concrete footings, across Beacon (Army) Road and a rock crib with (1) pre-fab metal farm road gate across Parke Creek Road.

Depending on site conditions, fencing components will include steel posts and pressure treated wood fence posts that are over 5 feet high and 5 to 6 inch diameter. Associated fencing materials include barbed wire (2 strand 12.5 inch gauge wire, 4 point 14 gauge barbs), smooth wire (2 strand 12.5 gage), and high tension wire. Barb wire fencing will be used for three strands of the fence with the bottom strand of the fences smooth wire. All other associated fencing materials; ties, rock jacks, cribs, galvanized and or pressure treated bracing materials, staples, wire clamps, and gates will meet ASTM (153 or 121) industry standards.

Steel posts will be installed using hand-impact manual driving tools, and wood posts used will be installed using hand-dug holes and set into the soil substrate. No excavation will be allowed for any purpose for fence construction beyond what is necessary to install wood fence posts. Soil excavated from fence post holes (spoils) will be broadcast around the base of each posthole and graded smooth using hand tools.

Materials will be carried to the site along WDFW approved travel corridors on WDFW property or public/private easement roads or trails. Materials may be transported on light trucks, jeeps, ATVs or pack animals such as horses. At no point will trucks or jeeps be allowed to leave established roads or approved travel corridors and staging areas. Equipment used will include pickup trucks, which are limited to travel on established roads. ORVS may be used immediately adjacent to the fence line, but limited to hillsides with less than 30 percent slope. Post driving equipment shall be transported by hand when working on fence sections distant from roads. At no time will any equipment or vehicles enter any source of water. At two points the fence will cross creeks, and disturbance will be limited in scope to all local, state and federal codes laws and in accordance with permit guidelines.

The new fence line will be brushed to a width of 2 feet on each side to facilitate fence erection and maintenance. Brush will be cut to ground surface and scattered on the WDFW side of the

fence line. Any required tree felling will be completed by Wildlife Area staff. Old fencing within 2 feet of the staked location of the new fence will be removed and disposed of in an approved facility.

The metal farm road gate will be installed using an above-surface mounting structure. The structure will be installed at surface and be situated entirely above-grade, meaning no excavation will be employed in relation to the installation of this gate. Wood and rock crib structures will be used to fasten the "swing end" (hinge) of the gate and another crib used to latch the gate at the opening end.

The cattle guard will be installed from well-established hardened road surface only and will implement the use of heavy trucks to transport the pre-fabricated structures to the site along WDFW and public rights-of-way only. It is anticipated that some excavation will be necessary for the installation of the ground-set structures. The cattle guard will be set in the road prism with equipment such as backhoes, excavators, boom trucks etc. At no point in the construction or installation of the cattle guard will more material be removed from the excavation than what is absolutely necessary for the installation process. No soils will be used to fill in any area on the project property. Soils excavated from the cattle guard installation will be scattered on the ground near the structure, but not within the road prism or on the line of the fence.

Line post intervals will not exceed 14 feet, center to center of posts. Metal and pressure treated wooden posts will be used. Wood posts are not driven in place, but are set in a hole at a depth of 30", backfilled and tamped down. Metal posts set at a minimum depth of 3 inches of soil over flange. If soil conditions do not provide for adequate installation, a rock jack or alternate method of post installation will be used. Maximum sequence run of steel posts will not exceed 5 steel posts per 1 wood post. Fencing will be securely braced and tightened. Stretch structures will be no more than a maximum of 1,320 feet apart. Changes in alignment of 30 degrees or more shall be considered as corners and corner posts will be installed. Corner and stretch bracing for this fence will be constructed of treated wood posts and tied together with diagonal runs of smooth, heavy-gauge wire.

There is an area along the Parke Creek fence that could be potential sage grouse habitat. In accordance with the recommendations of the FEIS, and to minimize possible effects to sage grouse, all fence wire will be spaced 16" bottom, then 6", 6", and top at 12" for a total of 40 inches. Hang tags will be installed on the fence to improve wire visibility for wildlife, and reduce collision hazard.

An environmentally sensitive area is located at Parke Creek Road where the fence crosses the road. To avoid soil disturbance in this area, an above ground rock crib and gate will be installed that is approximately 4 feet 6 inches wide x 4 feet 6 inches tall, including driven steel posts and rock jacks. Construction equipment will be staged out of the boundaries of this environmentally sensitive area to minimize soil disturbance. Machines will be limited to previously disturbed roadway areas for all staging and construction activities.

The stream crossing over Parke Creek will incorporate a vertical wood picket breakaway style of fencing, designed to pass seasonal high water events and flood flows. Gully crossings will include 4 inch pressure treated wood posts or lumber with vertical spacing 12 inch on center. They will hang from standard wire fence and a brace wire. At no time will any machines or construction activities enter the water.

This project was first presented to DAHP, the reviewer (the State Archaeologist) requested a cultural resources study of selected locations within the project area. A cultural resources review was conducted in 2014. The results of the survey were included in consultation documents sent to affected tribe(s) and DAHP. Areas of concern were identified and the project was redesigned to exclude those areas and/or to limit

impacts to those areas. The affected tribe(s) agreed that the project as re-designed constructed in the presence of an archaeological monitor would indicate that WDFW had taken all reasonable action to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to any archaeological or cultural resources should any be present at the project location.

The project has been redesigned to eliminate ground disturbing activities within the areas identified as culturally sensitive. The construction staging area for the project will be located outside the limits of these areas, in a previously disturbed area to avoid soil disturbance. Only above ground fencing methods using rock cribs will be installed within the culturally sensitive areas. Monitoring will be performed during the project-activities within the locations identified as culturally sensitive. Upon completion of monitoring, a report will be delivered to DAHP. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources, the WDFW Inadvertent Discovery plan will be implemented. Prior to the initiation of construction, the monitoring archaeologist will brief project staff on the plan.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Cindy Knudsen
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98501
(360) 902-8422
Cindy.Knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

The project fence is located on WDFW's Quilomene Unit Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington: The proposed fence would run mainly West-East with the Western terminus T18N, R21E S5, located approximately 2.5 miles West of Parke Creek. The eastern terminus is located approximately one half mile east of Parke Creek Road, along property boundary, ending where the fence will connect with existing fence, T18N, R20E on the section line between S 11 and S12. Please consult permit drawings for the fence route.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 21, 2014.**

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Steven Bell, back-up for Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

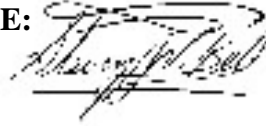
Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: August 6, 2014

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Wood", written over a horizontal line.

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 14-054.dns